

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3193.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3193.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1230

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 623) requesting that the President focus appropriate attention on neighborhood crime prevention and community policing, and coordinate certain Federal efforts to participate in National Night Out, which occurs the first Tuesday of August each year, including by supporting local efforts and community watch groups and by supporting local officials, to promote community safety and help provide homeland security.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 623

Whereas neighborhood crime is of continuing concern to the American people;

Whereas child safety is a growing concern for parents and communities, as evidenced by several cases of missing and abducted children;

Whereas homeland security remains an important priority for communities and the Nation;

Whereas crime, drugs, and violence in schools is of continuing concern to the American people due to the recent high-profile incidents that have resulted in fatalities at several schools in the United States;

Whereas the fight against neighborhood crime requires people to work together in cooperation with law enforcement personnel;

Whereas neighborhood crime watch organizations effectively promote awareness about, and the participation of volunteers in, crime prevention activities at the local level;

Whereas neighborhood crime watch groups can contribute to the Nation's war on drugs by helping to prevent communities from becoming markets for drug dealers;

Whereas neighborhood crime watch programs play an integral role in combating domestic terrorism by increasing vigilance and awareness and encouraging citizen participation in community safety and homeland security;

Whereas community-based programs involving law enforcement, school administrators, teachers, parents, and local communities work effectively to reduce school violence and crime and promote the safety of children;

Whereas citizens throughout the United States will take part in National Night Out,

a unique crime prevention event that will demonstrate the importance and effectiveness of community participation in crime prevention efforts;

Whereas over 37,000,000 people in more than 15,000 communities from all 50 States, territories, District of Columbia, and military bases worldwide participated in National Night Out in 2007;

Whereas National Night Out will celebrate its 26th anniversary on Tuesday, August 4, 2009, when citizens, businesses, local law enforcement officers, mayors, State and Federal officials, and others will celebrate "America's Night Out Against Crime" and participate in events to support community crime prevention;

Whereas National Night Out is supporting the Department of Homeland Security's Ready campaign by handing out materials and educating and empowering the public on how to prepare for, and respond to, potential terrorist attacks or other emergencies;

Whereas National Night Out is supporting the National Child Identification Program, a joint partnership between the American Football Coaches Association and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to provide identification kits to parents to help locate missing children;

Whereas the National Sheriffs Association, the United States Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities have officially expressed support for National Night Out; and

Whereas citizens and communities that participate on August 4, 2009, will send a positive message to other communities and the Nation, showing their commitment to reduce crime and promote homeland security: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Night Out; and

(2) requests that the President—

(A) issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for National Night Out;

(B) focus appropriate attention on neighborhood crime prevention, community policing, and reduction of school crime by delivering speeches, convening meetings, and directing the Administration to make crime reduction an important priority; and

(C) coordinate the efforts of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the USA Freedom Corps, the Citizen Corps, the National Senior Service Corps, and AmeriCorps to participate in National Night Out by supporting local efforts and neighborhood watches and by supporting local officials, including law enforcement personnel, to provide homeland security and combat terrorism in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR of Arizona). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution supports this year's National Night Out events coordinated by the National Association of Town Watch and encourages the President to focus attention on neighborhood crime prevention, community policing and Federal efforts to participate in various local events. The 26th Annual National Night Out, America's night out against crime, was held on Tuesday, August 4, 2009.

The National Night Out is designed to promote crime and drug prevention efforts, create support for local anti-crime programs and strengthen neighborhood camaraderie and police-community partnerships. Last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 15,000 communities from all 50 States, as well as U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide.

In 2008, over 37 million people participated in National Night Out events. National Night Out has the support of many agencies and organizations, including the National Sheriffs Association, the United States Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities.

On August 4, people from communities around the country sat on their porches with their lights on to show their support for neighborhood crime prevention and drug abuse prevention efforts. Local sponsors also organized events such as block parties, cookouts, parades and visits with local law enforcement agencies, as well as rallies and marches. National Night Out events have become a very popular way to build police-community relations and to encourage people to volunteer in their communities.

For those reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the resolution introduced by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK).

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) for sponsorship of this legislation.

On August 4, 2009, communities, businesses, local law enforcement officials and other individuals from all 50 States got together for what we call National Night Out. National Night Out, an annual event created to bring attention to the importance of community involvement in preventing crime and community awareness efforts throughout the country. It has successfully reached millions of people and thousands of communities in every State in our Nation.

Not only has the event grown in participation and size, but in production as well. The traditional "lights on," in which neighborhood families coordinate in turning on their porch lights,

has grown to include block parties, neighborhood walks, police meetings, cookouts and even parades.

Mr. Speaker, this is the only time of the year that many neighbors see each other. My grandfather used to say that people quit being as neighborly when builders quit building front porches on their homes. Anyway, National Night Out gives people the chance to visit with each other and be neighborly.

House Resolution 623 calls on the administration not only to highlight and urge participation in this nationwide campaign, but also to coordinate Federal efforts in other community crime-prevention initiatives.

The resolution reminds us that crime is local. Crime affects all Americans, regardless of where they live or who they are. In my 30 years as a prosecutor and a former judge, I saw for myself the terrible toll that crime puts on neighborhoods and on families and individuals.

We all suffer. Crime, especially violent crime, is a national health concern. Volunteer organizations such as neighborhood crime watch groups have proven to be invaluable, not just in awareness and prevention, but also in their coordination with local law enforcement.

National Night Out was created in 1984 to help bring members of our communities together to fight the scourge of crime in local neighborhoods. Since then, it has been the mission of Association of Town Watch and National Night Out to send a message to criminals that neighborhoods and communities are united in their fight against criminal conduct. Through the participation in local crime fighting programs and organizations, every American can make a difference in the safety of their community. Strong communities are safer communities.

In today's world, crime and violence can be found everywhere we look. Urban communities, rural communities, parks and even our schools. And while Federal coordination with local law enforcement plays a tremendous role in curbing criminal activity, the coordination of local law enforcement officials, volunteer groups and community leaders and neighbors is, without a doubt, the most effective way of attacking crime and protecting America's families.

So I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of the resolution, a law enforcement officer himself, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK).

Mr. STUPAK. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Stupak-Reichert resolution, House Resolution 623. This resolution commemorates the 26th Annual National Night Out event, which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch.

I would like to thank my Law Enforcement Caucus cochair, Congressman DAVE REICHERT, for introducing this resolution with me.

National Night Out, an annual nationwide grassroots crime prevention event, took place on Tuesday, August 4, and will actually take place in Texas on October 6, 2009. I appreciate the work of the Judiciary Committee and Chairman CONYERS and Chairman SCOTT in placing this resolution on the House calendar.

However, I must admit I am disappointed in the partisan, obstructionist tactics that precluded the recognition of National Night Out in a timely fashion in July. I am disappointed that this truly bipartisan resolution, that has been introduced year after year and passed by this House urging citizens to take back their streets from criminals, is hijacked by partisan politics. Now, a month later, we have to talk about this year's event in the past tense.

This year's event did bring together citizens, law enforcement agencies and civic groups throughout the United States. As Chairman SCOTT said, about 15,000 communities participated to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness and to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

National Night Out is the largest, most cost-effective crime prevention campaign. Whether it is stopping illegal drug sales, making schools safer, locating missing children or remaining vigilant against terrorism, local law enforcement officials depend on the support of community networks to succeed.

This high profile, high impact National Night Out sends a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. The active involvement of citizens and the presence of law enforcement in our communities is a winning combination that makes and keeps neighborhoods safe.

The Stupak-Reichert resolution expresses Congress' support for community crime prevention and asks that the President focus Federal attention on this issue. I urge all our Members to support this resolution.

Mr. POE of Texas. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Ohio, a strong supporter of law enforcement, Ms. SUTTON.

Ms. SUTTON. I thank the gentleman for the time and for his leadership on this very important issue.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in strong support of H. Res. 623, and I commend Representative STUPAK for bringing this great resolution to the floor.

National Night Out is an innovative and unique crime fighting tool, and the administration's support for this effort is critically important. This resolution sends a strong message to criminals,

letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and are fighting back.

It also sends a strong message to volunteers and neighbors and block leaders that their hard work is not going unnoticed by this Congress and this administration. When people volunteer in their community, they are telling the world that their neighborhood matters, that their neighborhood is important, and that it has value. And we hear them, Mr. Speaker.

In these difficult times, volunteering is critical to supporting both our neighbors and our communities. While neighborhood watch groups work tirelessly every night throughout this country, a special night of the year is reserved to celebrate National Night Out.

And on the first Tuesday of every August, nearly 37 million Americans gather together to participate in National Night Out, walking door to door, handing out important safety information, greeting old neighbors and meeting some new people on their block. It takes a community to keep a neighborhood safe, and on August 4 people across America helped keep their neighborhoods just that much safer.

This August 4, I had the honor to participate in the 26th Annual National Night Out in Akron. It was a great experience, and I hope to participate again next year, along with millions of my fellow crime fighting Americans.

I commend the gentleman again for bringing the resolution to the floor.

Mr. POE of Texas. We have no other speakers, Mr. Speaker.

I will close by saying that this is a bipartisan piece of legislation. This body here contains many former law enforcement officers, peace officers, sheriffs, prosecutors, former judges, and victims of crime as well. Crime knows no boundaries in this country, and it affects all of us. This legislation is a stand for the volunteers who support National Night Out and the good work that they do.

I strongly urge the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 623, which requests that the President focus appropriate attention on neighborhood crime prevention and coordinate Federal efforts to participate in National Night Out.

Today our suburban communities and neighborhoods throughout the nation are under attack. When our children are no longer free to play outside after school and families no longer feel safe in their suburban communities because gangs, and all the violence and drugs they bring with them, have spread to their communities; and when children are no longer safe in their own homes because thousands of sex offenders are online just waiting for their next prey; when the "bad guy" has no face and there are no boundaries thanks to the Internet—our very freedom itself is threatened.

National Night Out is an extraordinary opportunity for citizens, law enforcement, businesses, and local officials to come together to raise awareness about these threats and fight

crime where we live. Last year, over 37 million people participated in National Night Out.

As a former Sheriff, I know how important it is to foster relationships between the community, law enforcement and local businesses and organizations. By coming together we really can create safer places for our children to grow and thrive.

I urge all my colleagues to support H. Res. 623 and community policing efforts throughout their communities.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his introduction of the resolution and urge support of the resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 623.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 11 AS A NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 718) Recognizing September 11 as a "National Day of Service and Remembrance".

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 718

Whereas, on September 11, 2001, terrorists ruthlessly attacked the United States leading to the tragic deaths and injuries of thousands of innocent United States citizens and other citizens from more than 90 different countries and territories;

Whereas in response to the attacks in New York City, Washington, DC, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, physicians, nurses, military personnel, and other first responders immediately and without concern for their own well-being rose to service, in a heroic attempt to protect the lives of those still at risk, consequently saving thousands of men and women;

Whereas in the immediate aftermath of the attacks, thousands of recovery workers including trades personnel, iron workers, equipment operators, and many others, joined with firemen, police officers, and military personnel to help to search for and recover victims lost in the terrorist attacks;

Whereas in the days, weeks, and months following the attacks, thousands of people in the United States and others spontaneously volunteered to help support the rescue and recovery efforts, braving both physical and emotional hardship;

Whereas many first responders, rescue and recovery workers, and volunteers, as well as survivors of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, continue to suffer from serious medical illnesses and emotional distress related to the physical and mental trauma of the 9/11 tragedy;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of brave men and women continue to serve every day,

having answered the call to duty as members of our nation's armed forces, with thousands having given their lives, or been injured to defend our nation's security and prevent future terrorist attacks;

Whereas the entire nation witnessed and shared in the tragedy of 9/11 and in the immediate aftermath of the September 11 attacks became unified under a remarkable spirit of service and compassion that inspired and helped heal the nation;

Whereas in the years immediately following the September 11, 2001, attacks, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics documented a marked increase in volunteerism among citizens in the United States;

Whereas families of 9/11 victims, survivors, first responders, rescue and recovery workers, and volunteers called for Congress to pass legislation to formally authorize the establishment of September 11 as an annually recognized "National Day of Service and Remembrance", and for the President of the United States to proclaim the day as such;

Whereas in 2004, Congress unanimously passed H. Con. Res. 473, expressing the sense of Congress that it is appropriate to observe the anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks with voluntary acts of service and compassion;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of people in the United States from all 50 States, as well as others who live in 170 different countries already observe the anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks each year by personally engaging in service, good deeds, and other charitable acts; and

Whereas, on March 31, 2009, Congress passed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which included for the first time authorization and Federal recognition of September 11 as a "National Day of Service and Remembrance", a bill signed into law on April 21, 2009, by President Barack Obama: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) calls upon all people in the United States to annually observe a "National Day of Service and Remembrance", with appropriate and personal expressions of reflection, including performing good deeds, attending memorial and remembrance services, and voluntarily engaging in community service or other charitable activities of their own choosing in honor of those who lost their lives or were injured in the September 11, 2001, attacks, in tribute to those who rose to come to the aid of those in need, and in defense of our Nation; and

(2) urges all people in the United States to continue to live their lives throughout the year with the same spirit of unity, service, and compassion that was exhibited throughout the Nation following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. TOWNS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As we take time today to remember the tragic events of September 11, 2001,

let us also remember the great compassion that Americans showed each other following the attacks. They donated blood, searched through wreckage, and sat to comfort one another. The service of volunteers helped our country through their time of crisis, as it has so often during our history.

It is in their spirit that we observe the anniversary of the attacks by not only remembering those lost and injured on September 11, 2001, but by serving our fellow Americans in their honor. This is the proper tribute to those who served those in need on that day.

I am proud that we are taking time today to recognize these heroic volunteers. I would like to thank the leadership for allowing us to bring this bill to the floor today.

□ 1245

I would also like to thank the ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Mr. Issa of California, for his support of the bill. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY) will control 20 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The resolution before us is a commitment to reaffirm a sense of urgency, of reminding all of us of the crisis that occurred not so long ago in the crumbling towers in New York and the crisis at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania. I appreciate the chairman bringing this item before us, and as a representative of the minority on the committee, I want to strongly urge its support.

I appreciate the fact that the gentleman has worked in a bipartisan fashion. I think this is one committee where the chairman and ranking member have proven that Washington, especially the House of Representatives, can work in a cooperative manner, and I think if there is any place the American people not only expect but demand that we find that bipartisan ground, I think we have found it in this resolution and on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and my good friend from New York for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, September 11 will always have a special meaning in our hearts and in our lives. I guess the previous generation, when you said December 7, Pearl Harbor Day, that was something that stuck in their minds. But, for us, September 11 is a date that will live, as President Roosevelt said, in infamy.

September 11 showed us the worst in people, the terrorists that killed approximately 2,000 people in New York